

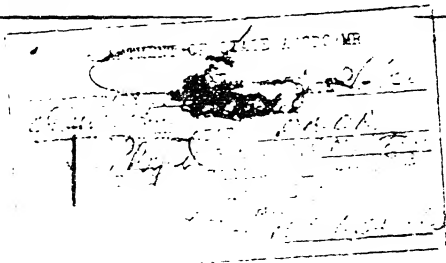


Department of State

PS10/163-2112

TELEGRAM

SECRET



S/S-0:LRFLEISCHER:EO
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ROUTINE

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CFR REPORT, INFORM CONSULS, CINC/SHAPE FOR POLADS ONLY

E.O. 12065: GDS, 3/21/85 (FLEISCHER, LOWELL R.)

TAGS: XX, US

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SECRET

1. MEA - AFGHANISTAN: AFGHANISTAN FACES REVOLT
(CONFIDENTIAL)

FIGHTING ERUPTED BETWEEN DISSIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE WESTERN AFGHAN CITY OF HERAT ON MARCH 15, AND BASED ON IRANIAN REPORTS, REBEL FORCES MAY CONTROL AT LEAST PART OF THE CITY. THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF ANTI-DRA ACTIVITIES AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE AND INCREASED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES. TARAKI IS FACED WITH THE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO HIS REGIME SINCE LAST APRIL'S COUP AND MUST MOVE QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO QUELL THE HERAT REVOLT AND CONTAIN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE. WE BELIEVE HE WILL USE EVERY RESOURCE AT HIS DISPOSAL TO ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE AND WILL ASK FOR SOVIET HELP IF NECESSARY.

THERE ARE NO SIGNS AS YET OF DETERIORATING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN KABUL, AND WE BELIEVE TARAKI CAN HANG ON AS LONG AS HE CONTROLS THE CAPITAL AND THE MILITARY STATIONED THERE. IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME AMONG THE ARMY, APRIL COUP LEADER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR NAYANJAR HAS BEEN NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF.

BOTH THE AFGHANS AND THE SOVIETS HAVE SOUGHT TO BLAME EXTERNAL FORCES FOR THE INCREASING ANARCHY AND ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IZVESTIYA AND RADIO MOSCOW HAVE ACCUSED US AND UK INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF TRAINING AFGHAN REBELS AND COORDINATING THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE DRA HAS ACCUSED IRAN OF INFILTRATING TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF THE REBELS. DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST IRAN AND INCLUDING ANTI-US AND ANTI-BRITISH OVERTONES HAVE OCCURRED IN KABUL UNDER OBVIOUS DRA DIRECTION.

EMBASSY KABUL HAS REPORTED THAT KABUL IS GENERALLY QUIET BUT TENSE, AND SOME ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE REGIME. ACCORDING TO THE KABUL BAZAAR RUMOR MILL, FURTHER TROUBLE IS TO BE EXPECTED.